



The Home of the Japan Mission

Resting upon the beautiful slope of a range of mountains in the rear and fronting a lovely bay, sixteen miles wide, is the cradle and home of our Japan Mission. In the year 1887 Rev. James W. Lambuth and wife, who went from the bounds of the Mississippi Conference to China and then to Japan, rented a two-story house for missionary work. For years that work went on in almost every room of the house. It was in the dining room that the first Church and Sunday school were organized. It was here that a Missionary and Church Extension Board was established, with Mrs. J. W. Lambuth as Secretary, which, through her efficient service and that of her husband, led to the building of many a little chapel around the shores of the Inland Sea. It was in this very room, which has become a sacred spot, that some of

the early converts to Christianity were baptized—among them Rev. Y. Yoshioka, President of our College in Kobe, and later on his mother. The latter, an ardent Buddhist, came to the baptism of her son intending to object publicly. Shrinking almost out of sight in a corner, she heard the service, saw the laying on of hands by the venerable missionary, and caught something of the significance of the rite performed in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. She was unnerved and disarmed. Returning to her home, she removed the household gods from off the shelf, placed them in a box, and set them in the back yard, resolving she would nevermore bow down to these dumb images. Her devoted son, beginning to hold family prayer, soon drew his mother into the circle of his intercessions, and she in turn gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized by the same missionary who had so impressed her in that first service. She is to-day the happiest Christian in all Japan, and has literally prayed up the church upon the college campus, having besought God for years that some one would give a sum sufficient to erect a building. When God answered her prayer,

she declared that she could now die happy. It was in that same dining room that the school for Bible women was organized, which has been styled the Lambuth Memorial Training School, in which a score and more of Japanese women are being qualified for a ministry of the Word and of a helping hand among their own people. It was in this home, in an upper room, that Rev. James W. Lambuth breathed his last, uttering the words which still ring through our Southern Methodist Church: "I die at my post. The work to be done is great. Send more men." Fitting words were these with which to close a life of thirty-two years spent in missionary service in China and eight years in Japan. He had a passion for souls, because he had a passion for Christ, and those last hours of suffering were also hours of prayer for the redemption of the millions who sit in darkness and in the "valley of the shadow of death."

The property which also includes what is called the Palmore Institute or Night School for Young Men, and which has been a constant feeder to our Kobe Church, passed out of the hands of the mission, as it was only rented. During Bishop Cand-

ler's visit to Japan it was possible to secure this property by purchase, and the Board gave its consent. The sum of \$6,000 is required to complete the purchase. When this amount has been raised, the entire site and building, including residence and splendid night school, will be ours without indebtedness. At the recent session of the Mississippi Conference the laymen present agreed to undertake to raise the foregoing amount. It is to be hoped that under their leadership, by voluntary contributions through personal effort of Conference, District and Church and Lay Leaders, one-half of this amount will be raised by March 31, the end of the fiscal year of the Board of Missions, and the other half paid in by the ensuing Annual Conference. What more beautiful tribute can Mississippi Methodism pay to the memory of its own heroic and trusted missionaries? What greater service can it render than the re-establishment of this pivotal point upon which so much of the past has turned, and from which many forces shall go forth for the uplift of the nations?

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